



**NORTON SUB HAMDON and WEST CHINNOCK
C of E VC PRIMARY SCHOOL FEDERATION**



**Ms Liz Stiddard & Mr Jamie Caswell
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27th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

First Week

Thank you to everyone who has been sharing what they have been doing at home. To mention a few, Ollie and Danny have been 'digging for victory' by planting potatoes while Lily and Jasper have created a giant marble run that is truly impressive!

Many of you are keeping fit in the morning with Joe Wicks including the children (and staff) attending our childcare facility. It's been inspiring to hear how some of you are using this time to learn something new or master something you've been meaning to do but have never had the time. Keep sharing – it really helps keep everyone's motivation up.

We could hear you joining in with the 'Clap for Carers' applause last night at 8pm as a way of paying tribute and saluting NHS and care workers dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

We'd like to take the opportunity to thank our school staff for their teamwork, resilience and ingenuity at this time. They have adapted brilliantly to their new roles and embraced new routines including being part of a Rota at school and getting to grips with new technology, including our first ever staff Zoom meeting!

Childcare facilities

As advised by the government, we are continuing to make sure that we stay open, as a child care facility, for the children of families where parents provide a critical role to the nation's Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Children attending have been completing home learning activities as well as working on arts and craft projects similar to the things we're seeing shared with us from homes.

For all our safety, there is no entrance to the school site out of hours including the community trim trail area at Norton and playground at West Chinnock.

The new contact number for parents is now 07385927007 or email the school office on NortonSH@educ.somerset.gov.uk or WestChinnock@educ.somerset.gov.uk.

Free School Meals

If your child usually receives free school meals (not Universal Free School Meals) we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this through a weekly food parcel delivery.

Supporting you at home

On Monday we're launching Google Classrooms (more details to follow). Please do share what you are doing with us as it's fantastic to connect and see what everyone is up to. Speaking to teachers today, the thing we miss most is sharing in the children's learning every day. We hope that by embracing technology we can see what you're doing and be involved again in your learning.

The Google Classroom will now be where work will be available for you (replacing the website page). You and your children will be able to interact with new content. This platform will help teaching staff to upload and monitor home learning remotely and more efficiently.

We are also exploring how other platforms such as Seesaw and Class Dojo (where pupils can communicate their learning by uploading photos of their work) and Zoom (where multiple users can enter at the same time so that small group learning may take place - for example with a phonics or an arithmetic lesson).

We understand that this can be an overwhelming and uncertain time so please do not feel any pressure to continually interact with any content - it's simply there to dip into should you want to use it and to enable us to see who might need a little more support or challenge. All staff are committed to doing everything we can to support parents and children at this time.

Safeguarding

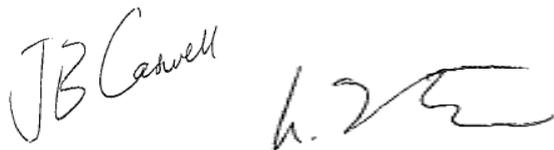
With more work being done online, please do take the time to remind children of the importance of internet online safety. This is a really useful website from the National Crime Agency with links to activities for different age groups:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

If you have a safeguarding concern during this period of closure please contact Mr Caswell, Ms Stiddard or Mrs Parkinson via the school email or our dedicated safeguarding number which is **07379770269**. This number is for urgent safeguarding concerns.

We wish you and your families the very best and our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Yours sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is 'J B Caswell' and the second signature on the right is 'L Stiddard'.

Mr J Caswell & Ms L Stiddard
Co-Headteachers